

Some unexpected Lepidoptera in Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire

By R. M. PALMER

During four years of studying Lepidoptera in North East Scotland I have found the majority of those species stated by South (1962) and Beirne (1954) to occur in either Kincardineshire, Aberdeenshire or both. Of those species covered in the volumes of South in particular a very small number have not as yet been found in the area. Set against these is the occurrence of an approximately equal number of species which I had not expected to find.

Of the nineteen species listed below some have probably occurred in the area for many years but, being scarce or local, have escaped attention in this large area where field workers are few in number.

In a few cases where a species appears to be quite widespread and not uncommon it seems likely that extension of range may have occurred. This may be true of *Lithina chlorosata* Scop., which occurs not uncommonly in several areas of Aberdeenshire and also in areas north of the Moray Firth, whereas in South it is stated to be of casual occurrence north of Perthshire. It may also be true of *Crambus myellus* Hübn., which was unexpected so far from its stated homes around Braemar.

Since, as far as I am aware, recent records from Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire are few, the following list has been prepared as a first step in what I hope will in future develop into as complete a list as is possible for the two counties.

NOTODONTIDAE

1. *Odontosia carmelita* Esp.

Although known to occur along the Moray Firth coast in the counties of Moray and Nairn and in Inverness-shire, the occurrence of this species in South Aberdeenshire was a surprise. Only a single specimen has been taken so far, at a portable battery-operated trap in mixed woodland near Monymusk. 10.v.69.

DREPANIDAE

2. *Drepana lacertinaria* Linn.

Not uncommon in the large birch woods around Dinnet and Logie Coldstone where larvae have been found regularly since 1968.

ARCTIIDAE

3. *Lithosia lurideola* Zinck.

Abundant at portable trap, Muchalls—August 1970 and July 1971. Larvae often common at Dunnotar Castle. Also recorded from Cove Bay. Probably common all along the

Kincardineshire coast from Stonehaven and Dunnotar Castle northwards.

NOCTUIDAE

NOCTUINAE

4. *Anaplectoides prasina* Schiff.

Quite a common species at light in woods around Newmachar, Dyce, Bucksburn (e.g. 6 at portable trap, Bucksburn, 6.viii.70). Also at Park on Deeside and probably in many other areas.

HADENINAE

5. *Discestra trifolii* Hufn.

Five specimens of this moth came to a portable trap on the cliffs at Muchalls, Kincardineshire, 7.viii.70.

6. *Hadena bicolorata* Hufn.

5 records:—18.vi.68 Dyce 1♂, 12.vii.68 Dyce 1♂, 21.vi.70 Dyce 1♂, 4.vi.71 Dyce 1♂, 22.vii.71 Dyce 1♂.

Strangely, this species has been found nowhere else.

7. *Leucania comma* Linn.

Not uncommon in Durriss Forest. Single specimens also found at Kintore and Kemnay.

CUCULLIINAE

8. *Agrochola lychnidis* Schiff.

Common at sugar Muchalls, Kincardineshire—late September 1969.

ACRONICTINAE

9. *Cryphia perla* Schiff.

Not uncommon at Dyce, where it has occurred every year since 1968. Also in the suburbs of Aberdeen and at Cove Bay, Kincardineshire.

AMPHIPYRINAE

10. *Nonagria typhae* Thunb.

1 specimen at m.v., Newmachar—1.ix.68.

1 specimen at m.v., Newburgh—28.viii.70.

CATOCALINAE

11. *Euclidimera mi* Clerck.

Not uncommon at Kintore in late May and early June. A single specimen from Dinnet—8.vi.68.

GEOMETRIDAE

OENOCRROMINAE

12. *Alsophila aescularia* Schiff.

Common at Monymusk and Kemnay.

LARENTIINAE

13. *Lygris mellinata* Fab.

1♂ at m.v.—Newmachar—14.viii.68.

1 at portable trap, Cove Bay, Kincardineshire—August

1969.

14. *Eupithecia abbreviata* Steph.
1♂ at portable trap, Tyrebagger Forest, Bucksburn—
28.v.70.
15. *Eupithecia tantillaria* Boisd.
Abundant among spruce near Huntly in 1969 and 1970.
A single ♀ at m.v., Cults 1971.

ENNOMINAE

16. *Erannis aurantiaria* Hübn.
Abundant at portable trap, Tyrebagger Forest—1968
and 1969. Larvae were present in vast numbers on birch
in the Dinnet area in June 1968. Also common at Kintore.
In contrast with this is the occurrence of *Erannis*
defoliaria Clerck. of which species only 1 specimen has
been noted in four years (at Durris Forest). I had expected
both species to be rare in the area; this seems to be so
regards *defoliaria* but certainly not in the case of
aurantiaria.
17. *Cleora rhomboidaria* Schiff.
Generally distributed and common. (South leaves the
Scottish distribution of this species rather doubtful, men-
tioning its general distribution as far as Perthshire but
making no mention of counties to the north of this.)
18. *Lithina chlorosata* Scop.
Although nowhere the abundant pest it is in parts of
southern England, the species occurs quite commonly at
Durris and Cults on Deeside and at Monymusk and Hatton
on Fintray.

PYRALIDAE

19. *Crambus myellus* Hübn.
Supposedly confined to high mountain valleys around
Braemar etc., this species was common at Newmachar in
1968 and has since occurred at Hatton of Fintray (1970),
Oldmeldrum and Dyce (common in my garden at portable
trap), 1971.
The rather similar species *Crambus pinellus* Linn. has
been seen only once during this period—1 at m.v. in a
suburb of Aberdeen, 3.vii.68.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Mr E. Pickard of Aberdeen for the
use of his records. The records of *C. pinellus* and *E. defoliaria*
are his, as are all records from Cove Bay and Durris Forest.

References

- South, R. (1961 edition). The Moths of the British Isles, Series 1 & 2.
Beirne, Bryan P. (1954). British Pyralid and Plume Moths.
2 Glenhome Gardens, Dyce, Aberdeen. v.72.